

I strongly feel that Sinclair Broadcasting is violating its legal and ethical responsibilities to use public airwaves in the public interest when it airs an anti-candidate piece for 40+ minutes, with no commercial interruptions and does so during prime viewing time. The fact that Sinclair officials declare this to be "news" in no way changes the inappropriateness of putting such an opinion piece on under the circumstances. By using consolidated media power to put the piece on all of its channels, it is demonstrating an abuse of power that is similar to that targeted by US anti-trust laws.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.